

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: El Dorado

Applicant: American River Conservancy

Project Title: Watersheds: Human Connections, a Nature Center exhibit expansion

PROJECT GOAL

The American River Conservancy proposes a project to develop a state-of-the-art interactive interpretive plan entitled, Watersheds: Human Connections, an exhibit expansion for the American River Nature Center in Coloma. With current drought conditions and projections of lower than normal precipitation in the future as well as issues relating to climate change, the need for watershed education is more critical than ever. Our project will educate visitors about watershed ecology by integrating interpretive exhibits exploring the critical human component in watershed protection. The goal of this project is to connect Nature Center visitors to their Sierra Nevada watershed and educate them about that water's journey from the Sierras to their faucets.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Nature Center exhibit expansion will include:

- New state-of-the-art interpretive electronic panels with hands-on maps and exhibits on two Sierra watersheds, the American and Cosumnes;
- A stream table with running water, which will be used as an interactive model to teach classes about surface and groundwater issues;
- A lending library of educational DVDs which will enhance educational outreach by integrating a visual component; and
- A new 4th and 5th grade Nature Center program, "California Gold: From Solid to Liquid," which will combine interactive exhibits with outdoor activities to teach students about past and present human impacts, as well as exposing them to current water issues within California.

The work being funded with Sierra Nevada Conservancy funds will be part of an overall expansion of our Nature Center's exhibits. Not only will our exhibits focus on the critical human component to the watersheds, but it will also educate visitors on the habitats and inhabitants within these watersheds. Our plan will incorporate "touch tables," which will include dissecting microscopes that provide visitors with a hands-on educational experience. The new exhibit expansion will also feature a video screen that will allow us to showcase educational videos relating to the watersheds for our visitors.

We currently have \$10,000 dedicated to our Nature Center redesign. This funding will allow us to incorporate the tools and equipment for our "touch tables" and video screen into the overall

plan. A portion of this funding may also supplement costs of the stream table, interpretive panels, and exhibits.

The uses and audiences of the Nature Center are wide-ranging; it is a center for conservation, research, exhibition, interpretation and learning. Our project will help protect habitat and water quality by inspiring visitors of all ages to become good stewards of their Sierra watersheds.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The Conservancy has received letters of support from various agencies and organizations. Accompanying the proposal, please note letters from California State Parks, El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), CABY/PEEF, and El Dorado County Office of Education.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

Detailed Project Deliverables	Timeline
Design, construction, and installation of electronic exhibit detailing American and Cosumnes River watersheds	February 2009-October 2010
Design, construction, and installation of interactive exhibit on California's "plumbing"- including Sierra watershed sources, the Delta, aqueducts and canals, and end users	February 2009-October 2010
Design, construction, and installation of interactive exhibit on daily human consumption of water	August 2009-September 2011
Write text and create interpretive panels focusing on ARC's role in watershed protection	January 2009-September 2010
Design, construction, and installation of interactive stream table	February 2009 to October 2009
Acquisition of DVDs/videos for lending library, focusing on watersheds and conservation	February 2009 to October 2009
Create promotional materials for "Water as new California Gold" program-promote to California school groups, both local and out of town (including Southern California.)	February 2009-August 2009
Complete curriculum development for "Water as new California Gold" program. Create shortened version for out-of-town school groups.	February 2009-August 2009
Final Report/Final Payment request	November 2011

SNC PROJECT COSTS

Project Budget Categories	SNC Request
American and Cosumnes watersheds relief map	\$18,000
State of California watersheds panel	\$18,000
Human consumption electronic exhibit panel	\$ 7,500
ARC interpretive panel and signs	\$ 3,000
Stream Table	\$ 2,500

SNC Reference Number: SNC 080087

DVDs/videos for lending library	\$ 2,500
Curriculum Development for California Gold program	\$ 500
Promo materials (brochures, fliers) and supplies for California Gold program	\$ 2,000
Staff coordination	\$ 6,800
Video Screen and Projector	\$ 2,000
Dissecting Microscopes	\$ 1,200
Reporting	\$ 1,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Total Request	\$65,000